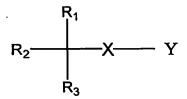
CLAIMS

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 A hair treatment composition comprising a molecule having the following formula:



in which R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from a methyl, ethyl, propyl group or mixtures thereof; X is a substituted or un-substituted alkyl or alkenyl chain and Y is an amine or hydroxy group.

- 15 2. A hair treatment composition according to claim 1 in which X is substituted with an amino or hydroxy group.
 - 3. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which the total number of carbon atoms in the molecule is from 3 to 12.
 - 4. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which the molecule comprises at least two hydroxy groups, amino groups or mixtures thereof and where n is the total number of carbon atoms in the molecule such that each OH or NH₂ is positioned with

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0.5n or less carbon atoms directly between it and all other OH or NH_2 groups.

- 5. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are all methyl groups.
 - 6. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which the molecule is a diol.
- 7. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which the molecule is 3,3-dimethyl-1,2-butandiol.
- 8. A hair treatment composition according to any precedingclaim further comprising a surfactant.
 - 9. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim which further comprises a betaine.
- 20 10. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim which comprises an aqueous base.
 - 11. Use of a composition according to any preceding claim for smoothing hair.
 - 12. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10 for aligning hair.
- 13. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1to 10 for preventing damage to the hair.

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14. A method of treating hair by applying a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10 to the hair.